



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & OPEN SPACE

2013 ADULT SOFTBALL

RULES & REGULATIONS

The adult softball league will be governed by the association that oversees the umpires – ASA.

I. ROSTERS

- Rosters are due **24 hours prior to the first game**. If no roster is turned in to the league commissioner, every game until it's turned in will be a forfeit.
- Teams may carry a maximum of 25 players.
- All players must be listed on a RPOS Official Waiver/Roster Form.
- Illegal players will result in game forfeit. Illegal player is banned for the remainder of the season.
- A protest of player eligibility will result in a forfeit if the team in question fails to turn in a waiver/roster.
- Waiver/Roster additions must be done in writing on a RPOS roster form and signed by the added player.
- Waiver/Roster additions must be brought to the athletic offices in person or turned in to an Athletic Staff member at the fields. There will be no official additions made by phone, email or fax.
- Waiver/Roster addition personnel become eligible immediately upon receipt of their names by the athletic staff.
- Waiver/Roster additions must be made no later than May 3 (Spring) and September 13 (Fall); this does not include rainouts.

II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- Men's Division – No restrictions. No women are allowed to play on a men's team if there is a women's league.
- Church Division – Team members must attend at least one church related function per week. (To be enforced by the church and rosters must be signed off by a church official).
- Coed Division – Equal number of men and women in the lineup at all times (5 & 5, or 6 & 6). Teams may start the game with 5 of one gender and 3 of the other but the 9th and 10th spot in the order will be an automatic out. Must alternate in batting order (*exception: 7-3 Saturday League*).
- Participants shall be a minimum of 18 years of age by his/her team's season opener and can not play until they turn 18 years of age.
- Players are eligible to play on only one team (Men, Church, Women, Coed). Player will be suspended until removed from all but one roster. Any player caught violating this rule can be suspended from Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space play for one calendar year. Exception for Men to play in 40+ league and other Men's league. Women's & Men's league players may also play on a COED team. No scheduling accommodations will be made.
- Illegal player rule: A single player may NOT play for two COED teams or two men's teams. Saturday League is included in this rule. Both the individual and the team utilizing this player will be penalized.
- A team found to be playing suspended, illegal, ineligible or non-roster players will forfeit all games in which said player(s) participated. Team Manager will be suspended from league for two games.
- **Once an individual player begins a season with one team on a particular night, they may not switch to a different team on that same night.**

NO EXCEPTIONS!!

THE ASA BLOOD RULE WILL BE IN EFFECT IN ALL GAMES!

- Player who are bleeding may not participate in games unless the blood is covered, as with a bandage. A player who is injured in a game and is bleeding will have one minute to take care of the problem and return to the game. If bleeding cannot be stopped and the blood cannot be covered within one minute, a substitution will be necessary or the team must play shorthanded (shorthanded rules will apply). Substitution and re-entry rules will apply. If a player gets blood on any part of clothing (jersey, pants, socks, etc.), that part of the uniform may not be worn unless the blood is dry. It is strongly recommended that the manager has a first aid kit with bandages, gauze, tape, spare jersey, pants, and socks available. Spare shirts do not have to match and do not have to be numbered.

III. UNIFORMS

- All players shall wear a like colored, numbered jersey. After the third week of the season, there will be no exceptions to this rule. No taped on numbers will be permitted after the 3-week grace period.
PENALTY: A player must change his/her shirt, or fail to participate, if the umpire deems the shirt or number unsuitable. If two players wear the same number, both players may not participate in a game at the same time. Players may not switch jerseys after the line-up has been submitted. Any player not meeting this requirement shall be ineligible to participate in that game.

IV. ID RULE

- Each player **MUST** have in his/her possession a valid picture ID. This identification must be produced upon request of umpiring staff or RPOS Athletic Staff. Failure to do so in appropriate time will result in the player being ineligible to play in that game or a forfeit of the team who does not act in accordance with this rule.

V. GAME RULES

- Softball affiliation will be ASA for spring and fall 2013.
- All regular-season games will be seven innings or 60 minutes, which ever comes first. Umpire should inform teams verbally when there is 10 minutes left in the game.
- There is ***NO GRACE PERIOD***. All teams should be ready to play at scheduled game time.
- Possible game sites to be used to include Northside Park (3 fields), Tarrallton Park, Larrymore Elementary School, Rosemont Middle School, Sherwood Elementary School, Poplar Hall Park, Lakewood Park, Larchmont Elementary School, Crossroads Elementary School and Fairlawn Elementary School.
- ***Run Rule:*** 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 10 after 5 innings.
- Last team listed on schedule is designated the home team for first game of doubleheader.
- **DOUBLE FIRST BASE:** Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner must use the colored portion. The batter runner is out when there is a play being made at first base and the batter runner touches only the white portion providing the defense appeals prior to the batter-runner returning to first base. Once the runner returns to the white, no appeal can be made. On extra base hits or balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch the white or colored portion. Should the runner return, the runner can return to the white or colored portion. On any force out attempt from the foul side of first base,

or an errant throw pulling the defense into foul ground, the defense and the batter-runner can use either the white or colored portions.

- Teams forfeiting four league games are dropped from the league. Furthermore, that team will not be allowed to play in the next City of Norfolk Softball season and loses all priority in future leagues.
- If neither team can produce the required number of eligible players at the stated game time, a **double forfeit** shall occur and the official standings shall show a loss for both teams. There shall be no opportunity to replay the game. If the forfeit is the last game of the evening, the bases will be taken up and lights may be turned off.
- The official score of a **forfeited** game due to **ejection** or due to **lack of players at game time** shall be recorded as **15-0**. In the event that a team has to **forfeit** a game due to **injury or prior to the day of the game**, the official score shall be recorded as **7-0**. In the case of a **double forfeit**, the official score shall be recorded as **0-0**.
- Teams will provide and hit their own balls.
- Balls hit out of play must be retrieved by team that hit it out of play
- Metal cleats are prohibited
- Re-entry rule is in effect. Starters and subs may enter twice
- Teams may bat 10 or 12 hitters for coed or 10, 11, or 12 hitters for men's and women's league.
- Ties will be recorded as ½ a win, ½ a loss during the regular season.
- **Foul Ball Rule:** A second foul ball after the first strike will be declared an out.
- 1/1- Ball/Strike count in effect
- Teams may start a game with eight players but with no less. (Other two spots to equal 10 players will be counted as outs in the lineup)
- If a team starts with 9 players, the tardy tenth participant will always bat tenth in the lineup.
- If a team starts with 10 players, loses one player and is unable to substitute, that slot in the batting order results in an automatic out.
- If a team starts with 11 or 12 players, loses one player and is unable to substitute, that slot in the batting order results in an automatic out.
- If a team starts with 11 or 12 players, loses two players and is unable to substitute, the team will forfeit the game.
- Teams starting with less than 10 players will be subject to the 10 run rule from the start of the game.
- (Co-Ed Slow Pitch Only) A game may begin or finish with 8 players, with the vacant position being an automatic out in the batting order; but, when, and if, another player arrives (of correct sex missing), that player must be inserted into the line-up at the tenth batting position (depending on vacant spot by alternating sexes). At least one female must be in the outfield at all times.
- All players need to be in the dugout area when beginning of game commences
- Each team can have ONE (1) courtesy runner (same sex) per inning per gender ONLY. No second courtesy running will be granted, even if an injury occurs. If the courtesy runner is on base and is up to bat, the batter will be considered OUT.
- Runners must remain at the bag until contact is made between the bat and ball.
There is no stealing.
- **SLIDING:** Sliding is allowed at any base. However, sliding is not mandatory. A base runner must either slide or make an attempt to avoid a collision with the fielder when; (1) The fielder has possession of the ball and is attempting to place a tag on said base runner; (2) the fielder obstructs a base runner without possession of the ball. Neither fielder nor base runner will be allowed to use force in performing their duties of tagging or base running. Penalty: Runner or fielder will be ejected from the game if judged flagrant. Note – When base runners collide

“standing up” with fielders in the base paths or blocking a base (with or without the ball), said runner will be called out and quite often ejected. Fielders standing in the base paths or blocking any base without the ball is therefore obstructing the base runner, and umpires will protect the base runner to the base or bases the umpire judges they would have reached, had there not been obstruction.

- If the incorrect ball is pitched to a batter the following enforcements will apply.

Female batter pitched the 12-inch ball:

- a. If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter re-bat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.

Male batter pitched the 11-inch ball:

- a. batter-runner safely reaches first base or beyond, the play will stand.
- b. batter-runner fails to safely reach first base as the result of a fly out, ground out, or foul the play will stand.

VI. EQUIPMENT

- Softball bats must be ASA approved by having the ASA 2000 or ASA 2004 certification stamp on the bat. There will be a list of bats that have one of these stamps on them but are no longer legal to use in ASA play provided in your team packet. The official bat shall not be an Altered Bat. The weight, distribution of weight, and length of the bat as well as all other characteristics of the bat must be permanently fixed by the manufacturer and may not be altered in any way thereafter. Inserting material inside the bat, shaving or rolling the bat, or painting the bat are examples of altering a bat.
- The City of Norfolk maintains a list of bats that have been deemed illegal for league play. The Illegal Bat List will be distributed to the managers and coaches at the coaches meeting pre-season. It is the responsibility of the manager to ensure his/her team is abiding by the rules. The Illegal Bat List is not intended to be inclusive. Additional bats with any of the following characteristics are not permitted for league play; non-ASA approved, exceed 1.20 BPF, exceed 98mph, or pose a threat to the safety of the players in the league. Managers are encouraged to contact the Softball Commissioner regarding illegal bats prior to purchasing new equipment for league play.

a. If a bat is on the Illegal Bat List, it is **NOT PERMITTED** for use in the City of Norfolk Adult Sports Program.

b. All bats must be made available to be checked by the umpire before the start of the game. Umpires shall have final authority to rule on bat eligibility.

c. If an illegal bat is used, after being ruled illegal by the umpire, the player will be called out and ejected for the remainder of the game. The player will also serve a two game suspension after being ejected from that game. If the same player uses an illegal bat in another game anytime during the season, he will be ejected and suspended for the remainder of the season.

d. If a **banned** bat is discovered **during** the pre-game inspection or **prior to** the batter entering the batter's box, the bat will be removed from the game and no penalty will be assessed to the player or to the team.

- All teams are required to furnish a new ball per game. This ball must be a .44 COR 375 Max compression with the ASA logo for the women's 11" and .52 COR 300 Max compression or .44 COR 375 Max compression with the ASA logo for the

men's 12". Each team will mark the balls that they furnish in a distinctive manner so that the umpire can easily keep the balls separate. Each team will hit the balls that they furnished to the umpire. Should a ball become lost or unplayable, it is the responsibility of the team at bat or whose ball became unplayable to replace that ball with a playable ball. Playable balls are those that the Compression, COR., and the ASA logo can be read by the umpire and based solely on umpire discretion. The following batter will start receiving strikes if a playable ball has still not been given to the umpire to put into play. The defensive team may put a ball into play at any time to save time while offense is retrieving balls. The home plate umpire must inspect any ball put into play. Balls are not to be heated or cooled in any way as this is deemed to be altering equipment. A team that is found to have altered balls or non sanctioned balls in play will forfeit their current game.

- During all local league play, a team, while on offense with no count on the batter, may at its discretion place into the game a ball of the same type as specified by league rules. Such balls remain game balls and should be returned to the appropriate team at game's end. The home plate umpire can inspect any ball put into play.

ILLEGAL BALLS FOR 2013: Dudley ZN & Thunder Advance

VII. SCHEDULING AND RAINOUTS

- Special events or specific dates that your team will not be able to play will be taken into consideration but does not guarantee that your request will be fulfilled provided your team makes these requests on the League Application form. Please do not request your team to play every game at a specific time on the League Application. Double-headers and possible triple-headers will be played.
- Rained out games shall be played at the end of the regular season on the same nights the league normally plays on. If multiple rain outs and time constraints cause extenuating circumstance, games will be played on different nights not on the normal league night. **The City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space reserves the right to reschedule any games, cancelled for any reason, to include two or more make-up games per week, if necessary.**
- Rainout of the 6:30 game shall result in all games on that field being canceled.
- Any regular season game stopped prior to the bottom of the 4th inning (except time limit) shall be played again in its entirety.
- Playoff games stopped for any reason (except time limit) shall be started from the point the game was suspended.
- The rainout hotline number is 757-664-6814. You can call this number after 4:30pm to get updates for that night's games.
- **SCHEDULE CHANGES:** Schedule changes may be necessary at times due to weather and/or loss of facilities. In the event of changes, City staff will contact the team manager who will be responsible for contacting their players. The Recreation Division recognizes the fact that many adults have other interests besides softball, but with over 80 teams, it should be understood that requests to adjust schedules to meet individual conflicts are impractical, if not impossible. Therefore, requests to adjust schedules cannot be honored.

VIII. PLAYOFFS

- Top teams from each division advance to **single-elimination** playoffs. *(Number advancing will be determined by number of teams in division)*
- Each division will participate in their own playoff. Same homerun' leagues may play in one tournament, no matter what night regular season games are played.
- There will be a 1 hour time limit for playoff games leading up to the semi final and championship games.

- There will be a 1 hour and 10 minute time limit in all semi final games and no time limit in the championship playoff games.
- Run rules are in effect for all playoff games.
- Coin flip will determine home field for the championship game. All other games will be given home field by lower seeded teams.
- It is mandatory that each player possess a photo ID at each game. They will be checked randomly and throughout all playoff games.

IX. PROTEST PROCEDURE

- Protest for player eligibility requires an I.D. check of both teams at the field of play during the game. The Umpire and/or the RPOS Staff on duty will perform the I.D. check. A \$25.00 fee to Norfolk City Treasurer must accompany all protests concerning player eligibility in the form of a money order or check. Valid and upheld protest will result in a return of your protest fee.
- There is no fee for protest of a misinterpretation of rules. A protest of misinterpretation of rules must be made at the time of the incident in question to the home plate umpire. If the game is not put under protest at the time of the incident, it cannot be put under protest once the game is resumed. The home plate umpire will sign both teams' scorebooks when the game is put under protest. If the protest is upheld, the game will start back at that inning on a day agreed upon by both teams.

X. CONDUCT & SPORTSMANSHIP

- Any player or team caught drinking alcohol on City property will automatically be suspended for two games. Second offense will cause of entire season suspension. **This rule will be enforced by Norfolk Police and Recreation Staff.**
- Player ejections will be league specific. There will be **ZERO** Tolerance concerning **ALL** on-field disturbances/incidents.
- Players ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct must leave the area entirely. **An ejected player has three minutes to leave the park premises. If the player fails to do so, the offending team will forfeit the game. Players will be suspended at a minimum of two (2) game nights (not including the game in which ejected) depending on the severity of the incident. Any player involved in any form of physical violence at a minimum will be suspended for the remainder of the season. While a manager, coach or player is serving out their game(s) suspension, he/she may not attend future game(s) until such time the suspension is fulfilled; under penalty of forfeiture, and further punitive action to participant and team. Likewise, further ejections by the same player during the current season shall be dealt with more severely, including but not limited to, suspension from the program for the remainder of the season.**
- The City of Norfolk reserves the right to remove and/or prohibit a team, manager or any players from league play at anytime due to inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct. Additional, the City reserves the right to manage the softball program as deemed appropriate.
- The umpire is in complete charge of the game. Players and/or managers can be ejected anytime while at the field site, including before, during or after scheduled games. Any player displaying improper behavior or verbal abuse towards an official, spectator or staff member will be immediately ejected from the game and be ineligible to participate for a minimum of two (2) games. Any player who physically abuses, pushes, shoves, strikes, touches or threatens to push, shove, strike or touch an official, spectator or staff member shall be permanently banned from participation in the adult sports program with the City of Norfolk.

- Should a player be ejected from a game, an automatic out will be recorded each time the player is due to bat.
- Ejected participants or spectators must leave the premises immediately or the umpire may forfeit the game.
- Managers will be responsible for the conduct of their players and must do everything possible to assist the umpire in keeping the game conducted in an orderly and respectful manner.
- Abusive and/or offensive language will not be tolerated. The umpire will ask the participant to leave the park immediately. If this conduct leaves the team short by less than 9 players, the team will forfeit. Issues of misconduct will be dealt with on a case by case basis, by the league commissioner and reserves the right to eject a player from the league permanently.

XI. LIABILITY

Persons or players in any activity sponsored by Norfolk Recreation, Parks & Open Space are not covered by insurance and the City does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage

XII. SOFTBALL PRACTICE RESERVATION SCHEDULING POLICY

Teams will be allowed one 1-hour practice time per week at no additional cost PRE-SEASON (***does not include Fall Ball***). Teams may schedule practices for the current week and the following week. The Lakewood Athletic Office will start taking practice reservations at 9:00 am on Monday mornings. Due to the high demand for fields and the limited number of fields, the City of Norfolk Recreation, Parks and Open Space will charge a light fee of \$40.00/night.

Weather Hotline: 664-6814

Updated by 4:30pm on weekdays

Updated by 8:00am on weekends

If games are not postponed, teams must report to field of play and umpire will make determination.

Lakewood Athletic Office: (757) 441-5835

Softball Commissioner – Pete Allen: (757) 641-4907



2013 Adult Fall Softball Team Registration

Fall Registration
July 8 – August 9
9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Monday - Friday

Office Use Only

Date: _____

Fee Paid: _____

Type: M.O # Check #:

Receipt # _____

Staff Initials: _____

League Fee: \$400/team
Business Checks/Money Orders Only
Payable to: Norfolk City Treasurer

Team Name: _____

Sponsor's Name (If Applicable): _____

Coach: _____ Coach's Signature: _____

E-Mail (All correspondence will be via email - Write Clearly!): _____

Phone (H): _____ Cell: _____

Receive Text Messages For Rain Outs? (y) or (n) _____ (please specify carrier)

Please initial here if you give permission for your address and/or telephone numbers to be given out to anyone requesting them for any reason. INITIALS: _____

Each team must submit a roster to the Lakewood Athletics Office BEFORE their first game.

League Selection: Please check ONE Playing Division.

Use one registration form per team, per division. There is a 12-team cap per division.

All returning Tournament Champions from Spring 2013 MUST move up to the next available division.

Men's Leagues

A League (Wednesday) 5/1 UP HR	\$400
B League (Church) (Tuesday) 2/1 UP	\$400
C League (Circle which night) (Monday or Wednesday) 2 HR	\$400
D League (Circle which night) (Tuesday or Thursday) 1HR	\$400

Co-Ed Leagues

Upper Coed (Friday) 1/1 UP HR (2013 Spring Gold Division)	\$400
Lower Coed (Friday) 1 HR (2013 Spring Silver Division)	\$400
Duffer Coed (Friday) 0 HR	\$400
Recreation Coed (Saturday) 2/1 UP HR	\$400

Women's League

Women's Unlimited (Thursday)	\$400
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*** League starts Friday, August 16, 2013 ***



Recreation, Parks & Open Space • Adult Softball
1612 Willow Wood Drive, Norfolk • (757) 441-5835
Complete all areas with team and player information and return to address above.

TEAM NAME: _____
LEAGUE: _____

Note: 25 MAX. All information must be clearly legible, accurate, and verifiable.

	PLAYER NAME	PLAYER SIGNATURE	HOME PHONE	BIRTH DATE	E-MAIL
1					
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25					

As manager I assume responsibility for the conduct and sportsmanship of all team members. I confirm all information provided on this form is valid and verifiable.

MANAGER'S SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

Office Use Only (Player Additions)

1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

By signing roster, all players agree to the following.

Medical Treatment Permission & Acknowledgment of Risks: In consideration of my participation in the activity provided by and through the City of Norfolk Department of Recreation, Parks & Open Space (RPOS), I, for myself or on behalf of the participant who I represent, authorize City of Norfolk employees to take and provide all necessary medical attention should I, or the participant who I represent, be injured while participating or being transported to or from any RPOS-sponsored activity. I have read the policies pertaining to cancellations, refunds, rules and regulations as they pertain to this activity. I acknowledge the risks and responsibilities involved in these activities, and assume the risks and responsibilities involved in these activities. I assume these risks realizing the capabilities of the person(s) participating. I have read this release and understand all its terms and execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Photo Permission Release Agreement: I understand that I, or the participant who I represent, may be photographed and/or videotaped while participating in this activity. I agree to allow the City of Norfolk Department of Recreation, Parks & Open Space to use said photographs and/or videotapes in Department publications, media campaigns, and/or for educational and safety training purposes. I further waive any compensation for publishing and/or printing such photographs. I understand that by affixing my signature on this form, I attest to having read, fully understand and agree to the conditions as set forth above.